BEAUTY & THE BEAST.

BLANCH & ROSALINDA.

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Beauty and the Beast

Popular Fairy Tales.

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BLANCH AND ROSALINDA.

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BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.

THERE was once a merchant who was extremely rich; he had six children, three boys and three girls; as he had also an excellent understanding, he spared no expense for their education, but provided them with all sorts of masters for their improvement. The three daughters were all handsome, but particularly the youngest; so very beautiful indeed was she, that every one during her childhood, called her The Little Beauty; and being still the same when she was grown up, nobody called her by any other name; which made her sisters extremely jealous.

This youngest daughter was not only handsomer than her sisters, but was better tempered also; the two eldest were extremely proud of being rich, and spoke to their inferiors with

the greatest haughtiness; they gave themselves the most disdainful airs; and refused to visit other merchants' daughters, nor would they indeed be seen with any but persons of the highest quality. They went every day to balls, plays, and public walks, and constantly jeered their youngest sister for spending her time in reading, or other useful employments.

As it was well known that these young ladies would have large fortunes, many considerable merchants demanded them in marriage; but the two eldest always answered, that they could assure them they had no thoughts of marrying any one below a duke, or an earl at least. As for Beauty, who had quite as many offers as her sisters, she always answered with the greatest civility, that she was much obliged to her lovers, but preferred living for some years longer with her father, as she thought herself too young to marry.

Owing to some unexpected accident, the merchant suddenly lost his whole fortune, having nothing left but a small cottage in the country. He said to his daughters, the tears all the time running down his cheeks, "My children, we must now go and live in the cottage, and try to get a subsistence by labour, for

we have no other means of support left!" The two eldest replied, that for their part, they knew not how to work, and would not leave town; for they had lovers enough who would be glad to marry them, though they had no longer any fortune. But in this they were mistaken; for the lovers hearing what had happened, said: "they were so haughty and ill-humoured, that all we wanted was their fortune; we are by no means sorry to see their pride humbled; let them give themselves airs to their cows and sheep." But every one pitied Beauty, because she was so sweet tempered and kind to every one; and several gentlemen offered to marry her, though she had not a penny; but Beauty still refused, saying, she could never think of abandoning her poor father in his misfortunes, and would go with him and assist his labours in the country.

Beauty at first could not help sometimes crying in secret for the poverty she was now obliged to endure, but in a very short time she said to herself, "All the crying in the world will do me no good, so I will even try to be happy without a fortune."

When they had removed to their cottage, the merchant and his three sons employed themselves in tilling and sowing the fields, and

working in the garden, that they might have both corn and vegetables for their support. Beauty on her part rose by four o'clock, lighted the fires, cleaned the house, and got the breakfast for the whole family. She at first found all this very fatiguing; but she soon grew quite accustomed to it, and thought the work of a servant no hardship at all, beside that the exercise greatly improved her health. When she had done her work, she generally amused herself with reading, playing on her harpsichord, or singing as she spun. The two eldest sisters, on the contrary, were at a loss what to do, to pass the time away; they breakfasted in bed, and did not rise till ten, when they commonly walked out, but finding themselves very soon fatigued, they would frequently sit down under a shady tree, and lament the loss of their carriage and fine clothes, and say to each other, "What a mean spirited poor stupid creature is our youngest sister, to be so content with our miserable situation." But their father thought very differently: he admired the patience of this sweet young creature: for her sisters not only left to her the whole work of the house, but insulted her every moment.

The family had lived in this manner about a year, when the merchant received a letter,

which informed him that one of his richest vessels, which he thought was lost, had just arrived in the port. This intelligence made the two sisters almost mad with joy; for, thought they, we shall now leave this dismal retirement, and return to our former splendour. When they found that this news made it necessary for their father to take a journey to the ship, the two eldest daughters crowded near him. and begged he would not fail to bring them on his return some new gowns, caps, rings, and all sorts of trinkets. But Beauty asked for nothing; for she thought in herself that the ship's whole cargo would scarcely purchase all her sisters wished for.

"You, Beauty," said the merchant, "ask for nothing; what can I bring you, my child?" "Since you are so kind as to think of me, dear father," answered she, "I should be obliged to you to bring me a rose, for we have none in our garden." It was not that Beauty wished for a rose, but she was unwilling to condemn, by her example, the conduct of her sisters, who would have said she refused only to be praised. The merchant took his leave of them, and set out on his journey: but, on arriving at the port, some dishonest persons went to law with him about the merchandize; so after a great deal of trou-

ble he returned to his cottage as poor as he had left it. When he was within thirty miles of his home, and thinking of the happiness he should enjoy in again embracing his children, his road lay through a thick forest, and he had the misfortune to lose himself. It rained and snowed terribly, and the wind was beside so high, as to throw him twice off his horse; and night being come, he fully imagined he should die of cold or hunger, or be torn to pieces by the wolves which howled in every direction around him. All at once, the merchant happening to look down a long avenue, he discovered a light, but it seemed at a great distance. He pursued his way towards it, and found it proceeded from a splendid palace illuminated all over. He quickened his pace, and soon arrived at the gates; which he opened, and was greatly surprised to find not a single creature in any of the outer yards. His horse, which followed him, finding a stable with the door open, entered without ceremony; and the poor creature, being nearly starved, helped himself to a plentiful meal of oats and hay. His master then tied him up, and walked towards the house, which he entered, and, to his great astonishment, without seeing a living creature: he pursued his way to a large hall, in which

was a good fire, and a table plentifully provided with the most delicate dishes, on which was laid a single cover.

As the snow and rain had wetted him to the skin, he approached the fire to dry himself: "I hope," said he, "the master of the house or his servants will excuse the liberty I take, for it surely will not be long before they make their appearance." He waited a considerable time, and still nobody came: at length the clock struck eleven; and the merchant, overcome with hunger and thirst, helped himself to a chicken, of which he made but two mouthfuls, and then to a few glasses of wine: all the time trembling with fear. He sat till the clock struck twelve, and not a creature had he seen. He now took courage, and began to think of looking a little farther about him: accordingly, he opened a door at the extremity of the hall, and entered an apartment magnificently furnished, which he found opened into another, in which there was an excellent bed; and finding himself quite overcome with fatigue, he resolved to shut the door, undress, and get into it.

It was ten o'clock the next morning before he thought of rising; when, what was his astonishment at seeing a handsome suit of clothes

entirely new, in the place of his own, which were quite spoiled! "No doubt," said he to himself, "this palace belongs to some good fairy, who has taken pity on my unfortunate situation." He looked out of the window; and instead of snow, he saw the most delightful arbours embowered with all kinds of flowers. He returned to the hall where he had supped, and found a breakfast-table, with some chocolate ready prepared. "Truly, my good fairy," said the merchant aloud, "I am extremely indebted to your kind care of me;" and, having made a hearty breakfast, he took his hat, and was going toward the stable to pay his horse a visit. As he passed under one of the arbours, which was loaded with roses, he suddenly recollected Beauty's request, and gathered a bunch of them to carry home.

At the same instant he heard a most horrible noise, and saw such a hideous Beast approaching him, that he was ready to sink with fear. "Ungrateful man!" said the Beast in a terrible voice: "I have saved your life by receiving you in my palace, and in return you steal my roses, which I value more than all my other possessions. But with your life you shall atone your fault; you shall die in a quarter of an hour!" The merchant fell on his

knees to the Beast, and clasping his hands, said "My lord, I humbly intreat your pardon; I did not think it could offend you to gather a rose for one of my daughters, who desired to have one." "I am not a lord, but a Beast," replied the monster; "I do not like compliments, but that people should say what they think; so do not imagine you can move me by your flattery. You say, however, that you have daughters; I will therefore pardon you, on condition that one of them shall come hither and die in your place; do not attempt to argue with me, but go; and if your daughters should refuse, swear to me that you will return yourself in three months."

The tender-hearted merchant had no intention to let one of his daughters die in his stead; but he thought to himself, that by seeming to accept the Beast's condition, he should at least have the satisfaction of once again embracing them. He accordingly swore; and the Beast told him he might then set off as soon as he pleased; "but," added he, "it is my will that you should not go empty handed. Go back," continued he, "to the chamber in which you slept, where you will find an empty chest; fill it with what ever you like best, and I will get it conveyed to your own house." The Beast

having said this, went away; and the good merchant said to himself, "If I must die; yet I shall have the consolation of leaving my children some provision."

He returned to the chamber in which he had slept; and having found a great quantity of pieces of gold, he filled the chest with them to the very brim, locked it, and, mounting his horse, left the palace with no less grief than he had entered it with joy. The horse of itself took a path acrc › the forest, and in a few hours they reached the merchant's house. His children gathered around him as he dismounted from his horse; but the merchant, instead of embracing them with joy, could not, as he looked at them, refrain form weeping. He held in his hand the bunch of roses which he gave to Beauty, saying, "Take these roses, Beauty; but little do you think how dear they have cost your unhappy father;" and then gave an account of all that had happened in the palace of the Beast. The two eldest sisters began to shed tears, and to reproach Beauty, who they said would be the cause of her father's death. "See," said they, the consequence of the pride of the little wretch; why did she not ask for fine things as we did? But, forsooth, miss must distinguish herself;

and though she will be the cause of her father's death, yet she does not shed a tear." "It would be useless," replied Beanty, "to weep for the death of my father, since he will not die. As the beast will accept of one of his daughters, I will give myself up to his fury; and most happy do I think myself in being able at once to save his life, and prove my tenderness to the best of fathers." "No, sister," said the three brothers, "you shall not die; we will go in search of this monster, and either he or we will pesish." "Do not hope to kill him," said the merchant; "for his power is by far too great for this to be possible. I am charmed with the kindness of Beauty, but I will not suffer her life to be exposed. I myself am old, and cannot expect to live much longer; I shall therefore have lost but a few years of my life, which I regret only for my children's sakes." "Never, my father," cried Beauty, "shall you go to the palace without me; for you cannot prevent my following you; though young, I am not over fond of life, and I had much rather be devoured by the monster, than die of the grief your loss would occasion me." The merchant in vain endeavoured to reason with Beauty, for she was determined to go; at which the eldest

sisters, who were jealous of her amiable qualities, secretly rejoiced.

The merchant was so afflicted with the thoughts of losing his child, that he never once thought of the chest filled with gold; but retiring to his chamber at night, to his great surprise, he perceived it standing by his bedside. He now determined to say nothing to his eldest daughters of the riches he possessed; for he knew very well they would immediately wish to return to town; but he told Beauty his secret, who informed him, that two gentlemen had been visiting at their cottage during his absence, who had a great affection for her two sisters. She therefore intreated her father to marry them without delay; for she was so sweet-tempered, that she loved them notwithstanding their unkind behaviour, which she forgave with all her heart.

When the three months were expired, the merchant and Beauty prepared to set out for the palace of the Beast; upon which occasion the two sisters rubbed their eyes with an onion, to make believe they shed a great many tears; but both the merchant and his sons shed them in reality; there was only Beauty who did not weep; for she thought this would only increase their affliction.

They reached the palace in a few hours; when the horse, without bidding, entered the same stable as before, and the merchant with his daughter proceeded to the large hall, where they found a table magnificently provided with every delicacy, and with two covers laid on it. The merchant had but little appetite; but Beauty, the better to conceal her sorrow, placed herself at table, and having helped her father, began herself to eat, thinking all the time, that the Beast surely had a mind to fatten her before he ate her up, since he had provided such good cheer. When they had finished their supper, they heard a great noise; and the good old man began to bid his poor child farewell, for he knew it was the Beast coming to them. Beauty, on seeing his hideous form, could not help being terrified, but she tried as much as possible to conceal her fear. The monster asked her if she had come willingly; she replied, trembling still more than before, "Y-e-s." "You are a good girl," replied he, "and I think myself much obliged to you. Good man," continued he, "you may leave the palace to-morrow morning, and take care to return to it no more. Good night, Beauty." "Good night, Beast," answered she; and the monster then withdrew.

"Ah! dear child," said the merchant embracing his daughter, "I am half dead already, at the thoughts of your being sacrificed to this frightful monster; believe me, you had better go back, and let me stay in your place." "No," answered Beauty, firmly, "to this I will never consent; you must go home to-morrow morning." They now wished each other a sorrowful good night, and went to bed, thinking it would be impossible for them to close their eyes; but no sooner had they lain down, than they fell into a profound sleep, from which they did not awake till morning. Beauty dreamt that a lady approached her, who said, "I am much pleased, Beauty; with the generous affection you have shown, in being willing to give your life to save that of your father, and it shall not go unrewarded." Beauty, as soon as she awoke, related this dream to her father; but though it afforded him some comfort, he could not take leave of his darling child without shedding the bitterest tears.

When the merchant was out of sight, Beauty sat down in the large hall and began to cry also; but as she had a great deal of courage, she soon resolved not to make her unhappy condition still worse by useless sorrow, and to wait

with as much tranquility as she could till the evening; when she supposed the beast would not fail to come and eat her. She determined on taking a view of the different parts of the palace, with the beauty of which she was much delighted. But what was her surprise, at coming to a door on which was written "*Beauty's apartment!*" She opened it hastily, and her eyes could not behold, without being dazzled, the splendour of every thing it contained; but what more than all the rest excited her wonder, was a large library filled with books, a harpsichord, and different pieces of music. "The beast is determined I shall not want amusement," said she. The thought then struck her, that it was not likely such a provision would have been made for her, if she had but one day to live, and began to hope all would not end as she had imagined. She then opened the library, and perceived a book, on which was written, in letters of gold,

Beauteous lady, dry your tears;
Here's no cause for sighs or fears;
Command as freely as you may,
Compliance still shall mark your sway.

"Alas!" said she sighing, "there is nothing I so much desire as to see my poor father, and what he is this moment doing." This she said within herself; but how great was her

amazement, when, casting her eyes on a looking glass that stood near her, she saw her home, and her father riding up to the cottage in the deepest affliction. Her sisters had come out to meet him, who, notwithstanding all their endeavours to look sorry, could not help betraying their joy. In a short time all this disappeared; but Beauty began to think that the Beast was very kind to her; and that she had nothing to fear from him.

About noon she found a table prepared for her, and a delightful concert of music played all the time she was eating her dinner, without her seeing a single creature. At supper, when she was going to place herself at table, she heard the noise of the Beast, and could not help trembling with terror. "Will you allow me, Beauty," said he, "the pleasure of seeing you sup?" "That is as you please," answered she, dreadfully frightened. "Not in the least," said the Beast; "and the Beast you alone command in this place. If you would dislike my company, you have only to say so, and I shall instantly leave you. But tell me, Beauty, do you not think me very ugly?" "Truly yes," replied she, "for I cannot tell a falsehood; but then I think you are very good." "You are right," continued the Beast; "and,

besides my ugliness, I am also extremely ignorant; I know well enough that I am but a Beast." "You cannot, I think be ignorant, said Beauty, "if you yourself perceive this." "Pray do not let me interrupt your eating," pursued he; "and be sure you do not want for any thing, for all you see is yours, and I shall be extremely grieved if you are not happy." "You are very good," replied Beauty; "I must needs confess that I think very highly of your disposition; and then I almost forget your ugliness." "Yes, yes, I trust I am good-tempered," said he, "but still I am a monster." "There are many men who are more monsters than you," replied Beauty, "and I am better pleased with you in that form, ugly as it is, than those who, under the form of a man, conceal the most wicked hearts." "If I had any understanding," resumed the Beast, "I would thank you for what you have said; but I am too stupid to say any thing that would give you pleasure."

Beauty supped with an excellant appetite, and had nearly got the better of her dread of the monster! but she was ready to sink with horror, when he said to her, "Beauty, will you be my wife?" She remained for a few moments without answering; for she was afraid

of putting him in a passion, by refusing. At length she answered, "No, Beast." The Beast made no reply, but sighed deeply, and made so loud a hissing, that the whole palace echoed with the sounds; but Beauty was soon relieved of her alarm, for the Beast said, in a melancholy tone, "Adieu, Beauty!" and left her, turning his head too or three times as he went, to look at her once more. Beauty finding herself alone, began to feel the greatest compassion for the poor Beast. "Alas!" said she, "what a pity it is he should be so very frightful, since he is so good tempered!"

Beauty lived there three months in this palace, very contentedly; the Beast visited her every evening, and entertained her with his conversation while she supped, and though what he said was not very clever, yet perceiving in him every day new virtues, instead of dreading the time of his coming, she was continually looking at her watch, to see if it was almost nine o'clock; at which time he never failed to visit her. There was but one thing that made her uneasy; which was, that the Beast, before he retired, constantly asked her if she would be his wife, and appeared extremely sorrowful at her refusals. Beauty one day said to him, "You distress me exceedingly, Beast, in obliging me

to refuse you so often; I wish I could prevail on myself to marry you, but I am too sincere to flatter you that this will happen; I shall always be your friend; try to be satisfied." "That I must needs do," replied the Beast, "since I know well enough how horrible I am; but I love you exceedingly; however, I think myself very fortunate in your being pleased to stay with me; promise me, Beauty, that you will never leave me." Beauty was quite confused when he said this, for she had seen in her glass that her father had fallen sick of grief for her absence, and pined to see her. "I would willingly promise you," said she, "never to leave you entirely; but I have such a longing desire to see my father, that if you refuse me this pleasure I shall die of grief."

"Rather would I die myself, Beauty," replied he, "than cause you affliction. I will send you to your father's cottage; you shall stay there, and your poor Beast shall die of grief." "No," said Beauty, weeping, "I love you too well to be the cause of your death; I promise to return in a week; you have shown me that my sisters are married, and my borthers are gone to the army; my father is therefore all alone. Allow me to pass one week

with him." "You shall find yourself with him to-morrow morning," answered the Beast; "but remember your promise. When you wish to return you have only to put your ring on a table when you go to bed. Adieu, Beauty!" The beast, as usual, sighed as he pronounced those words, and Beauty went to bed extremely affected to see him so distressed. When she awoke in the morning, she found herself in her father's cottage; and ringing a bell that was at her bed-side, a servant entered, and on seeing her gave a loud shriek; upon which the merchant ran up stairs, and on beholding his daughter, was ready to die of joy. They embraced again and again; at length Beauty began to recollect that she had no clothes to put on; but the servant told her that she had just found in the next room a large chest filled with apparel, embroidered all over with gold, and ornamented with pearls and diamonds.

Beauty thanked the kind Beast for his attention, and dressed herself in the plainest of the gowns, telling the servant to put away the others very carefully, for she intended to present them to her sisters; but scarcely had she pronounced these words than the chest disappeared. Her father then observed, that

no doubt the Beast intended she should keep the whole for herself; and immediately the chest returned to the same place. While Beauty was dressing, notice was sent to her sisters of her arrival, who lost no time in coming with their husbands to pay her a visit. They both lived very unhappy with the gentlemen they had married. The husband of the eldest was extremely handsome; but so very vain of his person, that he thought of nothing else from morning till night, and wholly disregarded the beauty of his wife. The second married a man of excellent understanding; but he made no other use of it than to torment and affront all his acquaintances, and his wife still more than any one. The two sisters were ready to burst with envy when they saw their youngest sister dressed like a princess, and looked so very beautiful; not all the kindness she showed them produced the least effect; for their jealousy was still increased, when she told them how happily she lived at the palace of the Beast. The envious creatures went secretly into the garden, where they cried with spite, to think of her good fortune. "Why should the little viper be better off than us?" said they, "We are surely much handsomer than she." "Sister," said the eldest,

"a thought has just come into my heart; let us try to keep her here beyond the week allowed her by the Beast; who will then be so enraged, that ten to one but he eats her up in a moment." "Well thought of," replied her sister "to this end we must seem extremely kind to her." Having determined on this, they joined her in the cottage, and showed her so much affection that Beauty could not help crying for joy.

When the week was ended, the two sisters began to tear their hair, and counterfeited so much affliction at the thoughts of her leaving them, that she consented to stay another week; during which time Beauty could not help constantly reproaching herself for the unhappiness she knew she must occasion her poor Beast, whom she tenderly loved, and for whose company she much wished. The tenth night of her being at the cottage, she dreamed she was in the garden of the palace, and that the Beast lay expiring on a grass plot, and with a dying voice reproached her with ingratitude. Beauty awoke in the greatest agitation, and burst into tears. "Am I not very wicked," said she, "to act so unkindly to a Beast who has treated me with so much kindness? It is not his fault that he is so ugly and stupid; and then he is so good, which is far better than all the rest.

Why do I refuse to marry him? I should certainly be happier with him than my sisters with their husbands, for it is neither the person nor understanding of a husband that makes the wife happy, but kindness, virtue, and an obliging temper; and all these the Beast possesses in perfection. I do not love him, but I feel for him the sincerest friendship, esteem, and gratitude. I am resolved he shall not be unhappy on my account; for I should do nothing but reproach myself the rest of my days."

She immediatedy rose, put her ring on the table, and got into bed again, and soon fell asleep. In the morning she with joy found herself in the palace of the Beast. She dressed herself with great magnificence, that she might please him the better, and thought she had never passed so long a day. At length the clock struck nine, but no Beast appeared. Beauty then imagined she had been the cause of his death. She ran from room to room, all over the palace, calling in the utmost despair upon his name; but still no Beast came. After seeking him for a long time, she recollected her dream, and immediately ran to the grass plot on which she had seen him; and there

she found the poor Beast extended senseless, and to all appearance dead. She threw herself upon his body, thinking nothing at all of his ugliness, and finding his heart still beat, she ran hastily and fetched some water from a canal a little way off, and threw it on his face. The Beast opened his eyes and said; "You have forgot your promise, Beauty. My grief for the loss of you has made me resolved to starve myself to death; but at least I shall die content, since I have had the pleasure of seeing you once more."

"No, dear Beast," replied Beauty, "you shall not die; you shall live to become my husband; for this very moment I offer you my hand, and swear to be only yours. Alas! I thought I felt only friendship for you; but the pain I feel, convinces me that I could not live without seeing you."

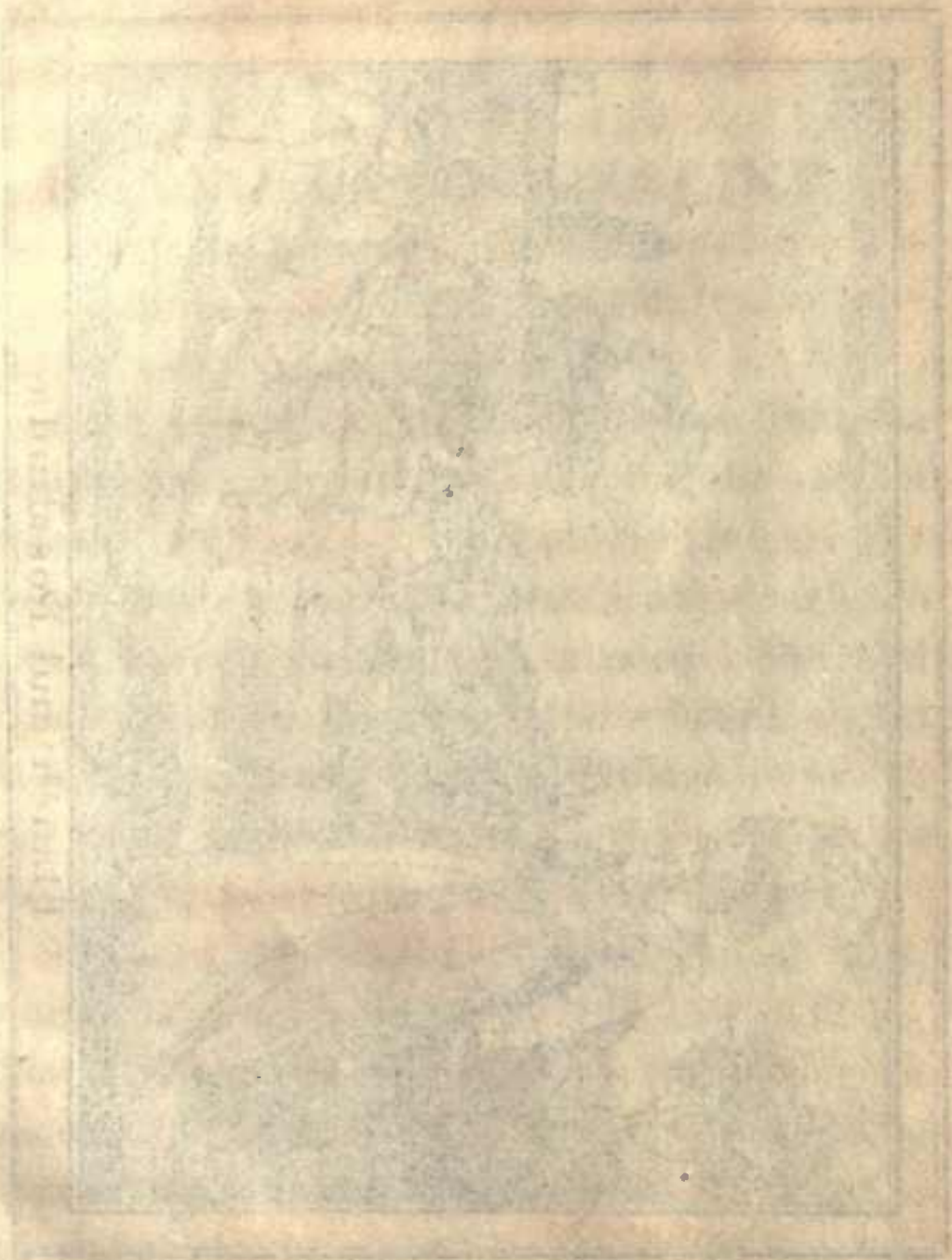
Scarcely had Beauty pronounced these words, before the palace was suddenly illuminated, and music, fire-works, and all kinds of amusements, announced the most splendid rejoicings. All this, however, had no effect on Beauty, who watched over her dear Beast with the most tender anxiety. But what was her amazement, to see all at once at her feet the

handsomest prince that was ever seen, who thanked her with the utmost tenderness for having broken his enchantment! Though this handsome prince was deserving of her whole attention, she could not refrain from asking him what was become of the Beast. "You see him, Beauty, at your feet," answered the prince. "A wicked fairy had condemned me to keep the form of a beast till a beautiful young lady should consent to marry me, and had forbidden me on pain of death to show that I had any understanding. You alone, dearest Beauty, have had the generosity to judge of me by the goodness of my heart; and, in offering you my crown, the recompense falls infinitely short of what I owe you."

Beauty, in the most pleasing surprise, assisted the handsome prince to rise, and they proceeded together to the palace; when her astonishment was very great, to find there her father and all her family, who had been conveyed thither by the beautiful lady she saw in her dream. "Beauty," said the lady (for she was a great fairy,) "receive the reward of the virtuous choice you have made. You have preferred goodness of heart to sense and beauty; you therefore deserve to find

these qualities united in the same person. You are going to be a great queen; I hope a crown will not destroy your virtue. As for you, ladies," said the fairy, to the eldest sisters, "I have long been witness to the malice of your heart, and the injustice you have committed. You shall become two statues; but under that form you shall preserve your reason as before, and shall be fixed at the gates of your sister's palace; nor will I inflict on you any greater punishment than that of witnessing her happiness. You will never recover your natural form till you are fully sensible of your faults; and to say the truth, I much fear you will ever remain statues. I have sometimes seen that pride, anger, and idleness may be conquered; but to amend a malignant and envious temper would be absolutely a miracle."

At the same instant the fairy, with a stroke of her wand, transported all who were present to the young prince's dominions, where he was received with transports of joy by his subjects. He married Beauty, and passed with her a long and happy life, because their actions were founded upon virtue.



Blanch and Rosalinda

BLANCH AND ROSALINDA.

In a pleasant village some miles from the metropolis, there lived a very good sort of woman, who was much beloved by all her neighbours, because she was always ready to assist every one who was in need. She had received in her youth a better education than the inhabitants of the little village in which she dwelt, and for this reason the poor people looked up to her with a degree of respect.

She was the widow of a very good man, who, when he died, left her with two children. They were very pretty girls; the eldest, on account of the fairness of her complexion, was named Blanch, and the other Rosalinda, because her cheeks were like roses, and her lips like coral.

One day, while Goody Hearty sat spinning at the door, she saw a poor old woman going

by, leaning on a stick, who had much ado to hobble along. "You seem very much tired dame," said she to the old woman, "sit down here, and rest yourself a little;" at the same time she bid her daughters fetch a chair; they both went, but Rosalinda ran fastest; and brought one. "Will you please to drink," said Goody Hearty, "Thank you," answered the old woman, "I don't care if I do, and methinks if you had any thing *nice* that I liked, I could eat a bit." "You are welcome to the best I have in my house," said Goody Hearty, "but as I am poor, it is homely fare."

She then ordered her daughters to spread a clean cloth on the table, while she went to the cupboard, from whence she took some brown bread and cheese, to which she added a mug of cider. As soon as the old woman was seated at the table, Goody Hearty desired her eldest daughter to go and gather some plumbs off her own plumb-tree, which she had planted herself, and took great delight in. Blanch, instead of obeying her mother readily, grumbled and muttered as she went. "Surely," said she to herself, "I did not take all this care and pains with my plumb-tree for that old greedy creature." However, she durst not re-

fuse gathering a few plumbs, but she gave them with a very ill will, and very ungraciously. "As for you, Rosalinda," said her mother, "you have no fruit to offer this good dame, for your grapes are not ripe." "That's true," replied Rosalinda, "but my hen has just laid, for I hear her cackle, and if the gentlewoman likes a new laid egg, 'tis very much at her service;" and, without staying for an answer, she ran to the hen-roost, and brought the egg; but just as she was presenting it to the old woman she turned into a fine beautiful lady!

"Good woman," said she to Goody Hearty, "I have long seen your industry, perseverance, and pious resignation, and I will reward your daughters according to their merits; the eldest shall be a great queen, the other shall have a country farm;" with this she struck the house with her stick, which immediately disappeared, and in its room up came a pretty little snug farm. "This Rosalinda," said she, "is your lot; I know I have given each of you what you like best."

Having said this, the fairy went away, leaving both mother and daughters greatly astonished. They went into the farm-house,

and were quite charmed with the neatness of the furniture; the chairs were only wood, but so bright you might see your face in them. The beds were of linen-cloth, as white as snow. There were forty sheep in the sheep-pen; four oxen, and four cows, in their stalls; and in the yard all sorts of poultry, hens, ducks, pigeons, &c. There was also a pretty garden, well stocked with flowers, fruit, and vegetables.———Blanch saw the fairy's gift to her sister without being jealous, and was wholly taken up with the thoughts of being a queen; when, all of a sudden, she heard some hunters riding by, and going to the gate to see them, she appeared so charming in the king's eyes, who was there, that he resolved to marry her.

When Blanch was a queen, she said to her sister Rosalinda, "I do not care you should be a farmer; come with me, sister, and I will match you to some great lord." "I am very much obliged to you, sister," replied Rosalinda, "but I am used to a country life, and I chuse to stay where I am."

Queen Blanch arrived at her palace, and was so delighted with her new dignity, that she could not sleep for several nights; the first three

months her thoughts were wholly engrossed by dress, balls, and plays, so that she thought of nothing else. She was soon accustomed to all this, and nothing now diverted her; on the contrary, she found a great deal of trouble.

The ladies of the court were all very respectful in her presence; but she knew very well that they did not love her, and when out of her sight, would often say to one another, "see what airs this little country girl gives herself, sure his majesty must have a very mean fancy to make choice of such a consort." These discourses soon reached the king's ears, and made him reflect on what he had done; he began to think he was wrong, and repented his marriage. The courtiers saw this, and accordingly paid her little or no respect; she was very unhappy, for she had not a single friend to whom she could declare her griefs; she saw it was the fashion at court to betray the dearest friend for interest; to caress and smile upon those they most hated, and to lie every instant; she was obliged to be always serious, because they told her a queen ought to look grave and majestic. She had several children, and all the time there was a physician to inspect whatever she ate or drank; and to

order every thing she liked off the table: not a grain of salt was allowed to be put in her soup, nor was she permitted to take a walk, though she had ever so much a mind to it. Governesses were appointed to her children, who brought them up contrary to her wishes; yet she had not the liberty to find fault. Poor queen Blanch was dying of grief, and grew so thin, that it was a pity to see her. She had not seen her sister for three years, because she imagined it would disgrace a person of her rank and dignity to pay a visit to a farmer's wife. Her extreme melancholy made her very ill, and her physicians ordered change of air. She therefore resolved to spend a few days in the country, to divert her uneasiness and improve her health.

Accordingly, she asked the king leave to go, who very readily granted it, because he thought he should be rid of her for some time. She sat out, and soon arrived at the village. As she drew near Rosalinda's house, she beheld, at a little distance from the door, a company of shepherds and shepherdesses, who were dancing and making merry. "Alas!" said the queen, sighing, "there once was a time when I used to divert myself like those

poor people, and no one found fault with me." The moment Rosalinda perceived her sister, she ran to embrace her. The queen ordered her carriage to stop, and alighting, rushed into her sister's arms, but Rosalinda was grown so plump, and had such an air of content, that the queen, as she looked on her, could not forbear bursting into tears.

Rosalinda was married to a farmer's son, who had no fortune of his own, but then he ever remembered, that he was indebted to his wife for every thing he had, and he strove to show his gratitude, by his obliging behaviour. Rosalinda had not many servants, but those she had, loved her as though she had been their mother, because she used them kindly; she was beloved by all her neighbours, and they all endeavoured to show it. She neither had, nor wanted much money; corn, wine, and oil, were the growth of her farm; her cows supplied her with milk, butter and cheese. The wool of her sheep was spun to clothe herself, her husband, and two children she had. They enjoyed perfect health, and when the work of the day was over, they spent the evening in all sorts of pastimes. "Alas!" cried the queen, "the fairy made me a sad

present in giving me a crown. Content is not found in magnificent palaces, but in an innocent country life." Scarce had she done speaking, before the fairy appeared. "In making you a queen," said the fairy, "I did not intend to reward, but punish you for giving me your plumbs with an ill will. To be contented and happy, you must, like your sister, possess only what is necessary, and wish for nothing else."

"Ah! madam," cried Blanch, "you are sufficiently revenged; pray put an end to my distress." "It is at an end," said the fairy, "the king, who loves you no longer, has just married another wife, and to-morrow his officers will come to forbid your returning any more to the palace." It happened just as the fairy had foretold, and Blanch passed the remainder of her days with her sister Rosalinda, in all manner of happiness and content, never thought again of court, unless it was to thank the fairy for having brought her back to her native village.